

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME II.

FORT WAYNE, IND., DECEMBER, 1890.

NUMBER 12.

CHRIST IS BORN.

Oh, Star of Bethlehem!
Thou bright and peerless gem
Among the constellations of earth's night,
Throw thy rays far and wide,
And lead us to the side
Of the low manger crowned with heavenly light.

Oh, angels, on swift wing,
As ye exulting sing,
Draw near to bring a message sweet to me!
And say this blessed morn
"The Saviour—Christ is born;
Take with glad heart God's gift of love to thee."
—Ellen M. Cramstock.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

We are already in the early dawn of the Christmas season. A few more weeks and we shall come again to that happiest of days in the whole year. Already the hearts of old and young are a stir with thoughts and hopes of Christmas. Everywhere this day will be remembered. "In every land some quaint custom tells people of the birthday of the Babe of Bethlehem, Christmas lights and Christmas trees are in Northmen's homes; yule-logs blaze on English hearths, the gentle Christ-child comes to German homes, and the children of a Southern sun have brought the evergreen to beautify the house of God. Even among those who keep no other feast, there will be a holiday as children wish a 'Merry Christmas.'" Even the old folks, whose heads show the winters of many years, and whose faces have been plowed with many cares and toils, will grow young and happy again at the return of this day.

More and more the world comes to recognize the mission of the Bethlehem Babe. Each year new worshippers come to the manger cradle, bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh. This is a matter of congratulation to those who have long ago sought and found that wonderful Child. With each returning Christmas season we should ask, what more may we do to make that star shine brighter, and send its light into still remoter regions of the world. The Star of the East must shine until the reign of the Christ-Child shall be supreme, in every land and every heart.

The divine power of that wonderful life ushered into existence on that first Christmas morn, is not without its testimony in the world. The barren wastes are converted into the fruitful fields,

the deserts are made to blossom as the rose.

A quaint legend is told at Bethlehem, of a Roman maid, who more than a thousand years ago, was said to have died the death of a martyr. She was brought before the magistrate and commanded to deny Christ. In response she said, "I cannot deny Him who died for me." She was then condemned to be burned at the stake. The legend says, "When the fagots were lit and the heroine was enveloped in flames, angels came and put out the fire, and the maiden stood in a garden of roses; the burned fagots were red roses, and the unburned were white roses." This is only a legend, but the lesson is this. They who serve the Divine Child will find that the way of sorrow turns to a way of joy, and for thorns and briars the wilderness will be as a garden of roses.

Some years ago an Indian chief brought his little daughter of ten years to a bishop laboring in the far west, with the request that she might be educated and become like the daughters in Christian homes. While in charge of the bishop the little Indian girl took sick. The friends of the chief came to him and said: "You see what becomes of your folly. The whites are our enemies. They have poisoned your child." In great haste and with perplexity and sorrow of heart, the father came to see his daughter and told her all he had heard. In reply the daughter told the father the sweet story of Bethlehem as she had heard it in the Christian home, and as it had brought light and comfort to her young heart. The child was a witness unto the father. He could not doubt the evidence. The Indian chief became a changed man. He gave up his heathen dances; he no longer painted his face, he was like a little child, and the blessed story found its way to his heart. That story carries with it, wherever it goes a magic charm.

And now as we come into the full light and influence of the Christmas season, may that Old, old story work in our hearts and lives a clearer and fuller evidence of the power and preciousness of the child Jesus. The true Christmas spirit in our hearts will work out in us the spirit of that Saviour. Thus may we repeat his life, showing men some feeble reflection of his sweet and loving face, and doing, in our poor

way, a few of the beautiful things he would do if he were here himself.

"The dear Lord's best interpreters
Are humble human souls;
The Gospel of a life
Is more than books or scrolls."

D. W. Souder has been appointed by the consistory to solicit subscriptions, to meet the current expenses of the church for the coming year. A thorough canvass is to be made of the whole church. Hold yourself in readiness to give a liberal subscription. It is just, that all who are able should give to the support of the church, with which they have the privilege of being identified, and give according to their competency. The church member with a right heart esteems it a great pleasure to give to his church. This is the right spirit. Let us not aim to give grudgingly and beggarly, but cheerfully and liberally. Withholding tendeth to poverty; giving enriches. Some have been paying weekly fifty cents, others thirty and twenty-five cents, and some less, some nothing. Would it not be possible for some to give more, and could not some of those who have not been giving at all, by a practice of a little self-denial, succeed in having at least some credits opposite their names in the treasurer's book. Who among us is giving his tenth part? This is the Bible rule of giving. Grace Church believes in systematic giving, but let our giving also be liberal, and let all give who can. Our current expenses must be met, and fully and promptly.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING.

The following items of business will claim the attention of the congregation at the annual meeting on New Year's morning:

1. Pastor's Annual Address.
2. Treasurers' reports. Annual report of church treasurer, treasurer Ladies Society, Sunday School, Young People's Society, Mission Band, and Grace Church Visitor.
3. Election of church officers and Sunday School.
4. Action upon a proposed amendment to the church constitution, as reported in another column of the Visitor.

You and all the neighbors are invited to Uncle Ruben and Aunt Peggy's Husking Bee, at 94 East Washington street, New Years evening Jan. 1, at 7 o'clock.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

25 Cents per Year.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - - EDITOR.

Board of Managers; REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, F. D. PAULUS, and D. W. SOUDER.

Entered at the postoffice at Fort Wayne, Indiana, as second-class matter, Feb. 7, 1890.

With this issue we complete the second volume of the VISITOR. Our experience in the editorial work has been both pleasant and profitable. We are grateful to all who have befriended us in the past, and hope we may have their cooperation in the future. During the past year the VISITOR found its way into many families out side of Grace Church, and outside of the city, and we have received encouraging reports from many sources. By a little effort on the part of the members of Grace Church we are confident the circulation of the VISITOR could be very much enlarged. We shall hope to send the VISITOR into many more homes during the coming year, and make its visits still more profitable.

GETTING READY FOR A REVIVAL.

This is a busy, aggressive age. The world is astir and keenly active. Whatever succeeds to-day, does so by persistent and well-directed effort. Business is no longer transacted in the old "hum-drum" routine, of half a century ago. Whoever succeeds to-day is wide-awake, and has caught the spirit of the age. The man who has not been electrified with the stir of the day, never pushes to the front. He remains the center of a very insignificant circumference. The world moves away from him, and soon leaves him in the distance.

Now, what is true of men to-day, is true, we fear, of many of our churches. They have not been electrified by the spirit of the day. While the world is astir and active, the churches are asleep. Many of them are sticking in the old ruts of many years ago. If the church has lost its grip upon the masses, it is because the masses have been awake, and the church has been asleep. If our communities are to be evangelized, then our churches must be equal to the situation. What we need is a healthy, vigorous, active, Christianity, electrified with the spirit of the Gospel and of the day. Our churches must be up and doing, and push the claims of the Gospel with a will and a might, into the ranks of the unsaved. The churches that succeed to-day are the churches that push the "Kings business" as men push their own private business. The winter months have special advantages for successful church work. It is harvest time for the

churches. With the "Week of Prayer" beginning January 4th, we expect to begin a series of revival services at Grace Church. Our aim in this work, will be two-fold first, the conversion of souls, and secondly the building up of believers in the divine-life. Grace Church has an open door before it. On a recent Sabbath the pastor preached a sermon from the text Acts xviii, 9: "For I have much people in this city." We feel assured that this text is an exhibit of the facts as they exist in our midst. The Lord has much people in this city that still remain unsaved. The church that will go out into the streets and lanes of the city and preach the gospel, will be able by the help of God to save this people, and gather it into its fold. The pastor asks the members of Grace Church for their fullest co-operation in his work. This is the work of the church. Get ready for a revival. We need it. The church needs; the community needs. Revivals come in answer to prayer and earnest seeking. Get your hearts into this great work of the Lord. Pray for a revival.

Talk about a revival among yourselves and to your friends and strangers. Do not talk against a revival, but for it. Determine in your hearts that you will attend the meetings. Until church members are willing to do this, there is no hope of reaching the unsaved.

The pastor wants the help of the entire church in this work, which we are about to undertake. For some months past our prayer-meetings have partaken very much of the spirit of revival meetings. Let us be in expectation of a rich blessing from the Lord upon our work and our church.

The consistory has given instructions to the deacons, to furnish each member of the church, in good season, a statement of his account with the church. The current expenses of the church must be met promptly. The subscriptions all expire with this month (December). Many of the members have adopted the weekly system of payment, and have paid promptly. Others are in arrears. But it is the intention of the consistory to collect all arrearages and square up the books, by the beginning of the new year. Let every member do his utmost to assist the consistory in this work. Any persons wishing to see their accounts, as they are entered upon the books, can do so either before or after any of the Sabbath services. Any errors that may have occurred will be cheerfully corrected, if reported. Deacon Lonergan has the books in hand.

Mrs. Catherine Wingate, has gone to Waterloo, to spend the winter.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.

For the convenience of many of our members, the annual Christmas entertainment will be given on Christmas evening. The exercises will begin promptly at 7:30. An interesting cauttata, entitled, "Christmas at the Kerchief," will be rendered by the Sunday school. At the close of the exercises the regular scholars of the Sunday school will receive their Christmas presents. The children of the school members and friends of the church will be supplied with envelopes for their Christmas offerings. These, with their offerings enclosed, will be received at the door as their tickets of admittance to the entertainment. Those who have no envelopes with offerings will be charged fifteen cents admittance. Every person can well afford to pay twice or thrice the admittance fee to enjoy the entertainment.

The envelopes, which will be furnished to the Sabbath school and church, will be similar to those used upon former Christmas occasions, reading upon the face, "My Christmas Gift to Jesus." Now, in this season of gift-giving and gift-receiving, let us remember Jesus, and let our offerings to him be cheerful and liberal. Let us make him glad with offerings in our envelopes of silver quarters, half dollars and dollars.

HUSKING BEE.

Uncle Ruben and Aunt Peggy want to extend an invitation through the VISITOR to their friends and neighbors to come to their Husking Bee on New Years evening, Jan. 1st., promptly at 7 o'clock. They invite their huskers to come early, as they want to get through with the husking in good season. They have arranged with some of their friends to sing and speak some old fashioned pieces at the husking.

After the husking, at about 8 o'clock, sharp, Aunt Peggy will furnish an old fashioned supper for the huskers and her friends.

The following will give you an idea of the bill of fair:

Meats,
Corn Beef, Ham of Cornfed Pig.
Relishes,
Corn Mush and Milk, Corn Bread, Cold Cabbage and Pickles.
Desert,
Cranberry Sauce and Cornstarch Pudding,
Doughnuts, Coffee.

To meet the expenses of this occasion Uncle Ruben feels that he must do a little collecting, or he can't stand it; so he has it understood with Peggy and his friends, that he will charge 25 cents for admittance and the supper. In this way he can afford to invite all, well-behaved friends and neighbors to the husk. The invitation, therefore, is given. Every person is invited.

GRACE REFORMED CHURCH DIRECTORY.

Our Church Parlors on East Washington St., between Barr and Lafayette streets.

SERVICES.

Sabbath morning,	10:30
Sabbath evening,	7:30
Sunday School,	9:30
Teachers' meeting Sabbath evening,	6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening,	7:30

Come, and welcome to these services.

A. K. ZARTMAN, Pastor.
Residence 96 East Washington St.

CONSISTORY.

Elders.	Deacons.
F. D. PAULUS,	G. W. SOLIDAY.
D. W. SOUDER,	J. E. LONERGAN.
E. G. PIERCE,	CHARLES TROXAL.

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F. D. PAULUS.

H. P. VORDERMARK—Treasurer and Secretary.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

F. D. PAULUS—Superintendent.
D. W. SOUDER—Assistant Superintendent.
PHILIP HYMAN—Secretary.
KATIE VORDERMARK—Treasurer.
FREDDIE GUMPER—Librarian.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

MRS. A. K. ZARTMAN—PRESIDENT.
MRS. F. D. PAULUS—VICE PRESIDENT.
EMMA NIEREITER—Secretary.
MRS. M. CONET—Treasurer

BRIEF NOTES.

Christmas [entertainment on Christmas evening.

Mr. Valentine Mons and Mr. James Vining's remembered the pastor's family on butchering day. Thanks.

Have you paid your ~~contribution~~ ^{tax}? We hope all who are in arrears will pay at once.

Mrs. Null, of 334 East Washington street, has been seriously ill. We are glad to report that she is improving.

Mr. Jacob Rudesil has the thanks of the pastor's family for a sack of potatoes. Potatoes are a scarce article in these days.

When you buy your holiday goods buy from our advertisers. They have complete lines of goods and will always do the fair thing by you.

Annual church meeting and election New Year's morning at 9 o'clock. Every member of the church is expected to be at this meeting.

The pastor can furnish you with a Church Almanac for 1891. Our Almanac is very neat and attractive, and has much valuable reading, besides the pictures of many of our ministers and churches.

The Rich Hotel, under the management of its new proprietors, McClure & Paulus, is doing a rushing business. Their Thanksgiving dinner was inferior to none in the city, except the ladies' dinner at the Grace church.

The Thanksgiving dinner was a great success. The ladies worked hard, and are deserving of much praise and the thanks of the whole church. Everything was done in harmony and order. The management was complete. We

are glad to say also that every family responded freely and cheerfully in furnishing provisions for the dinner. The Thanksgiving dinners of Grace Church are growing in favor with the people, as was evidenced by the patronage this season. The net receipts will amount fully to \$66.00. This is more than was realized upon former occasions.

The pastor and family recently enjoyed a most delightful visit from Mrs. B. Mechling of Glenford, Ohio, and Mrs. J. W. Foucht and son Evan, of Union City, Ind. Mrs. Mechling and Mrs. Foucht, are sisters of the pastor. We wished they could have tarried with us for several weeks longer. They were very much pleased with the manner in which the ladies of Grace Church served their Thanksgiving dinner, and the dispatch and harmony in which everything was done. They think the ladies of Grace Church have an eye to business. We shall hope to have another visit from these sisters at an early day.

MARRIAGES BY THE PASTOR.

At the parsonage, Nov. 20th, Sherman Cole, of Valparaiso, Ind., to Rosa V. Griffith, of Fort Wayne. Mr. and Mrs. Cole will reside for the present at Valparaiso, later they

Fort Wayne their home Nov. 27th, Oliver

At the parsonage, son, both of the McNally and Rosa Hole, Mr. and Mrs. McNally expect to make Fort Wayne their home in the near future.

ANNUAL CHURCH ELECTION NEW YEAR'S MORNING AT 9 O'CLOCK.

Nominations Made by the Consistory. CHURCH TICKET.

ELDER.
D. W. Souder. David Henderson.

DEACON.
Martin Conet. John L. Horn.

TREASURER.
F. D. Paulus. James E. Lonergan.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TICKET.

SUPERINTENDENT.
F. D. Paulus. D. W. Souder.

SECRETARY.
Kate Ersig. Philip Hyman.

TREASURER.
Kate Vordermark. Emma Niereiter.

LIBRARIAN.
Oscar Miller. Charles Stockman.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Resolved, That Art. II. Sec. 1 of the Constitution, as amended, be so amended as to read as follows:

a. The officers shall be a pastor, three elders, and three deacons, and a treasurer.

b. The pastor, elders, and deacons shall constitute the Consistory and Board of Trustees.

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FRUIT HOUSE.**Y. P. S. C. E. PRAYER MEETING TOPICS AND LEADERS.**

Dec. 14. "The Saviour and the Out-Cast." Mark 1: 40-45. Lillie Vordermark.

Dec. 21. "Some Reasons Why Christ Came to Earth." John 11: 46, 47; 3: 16; 10: 10. Mollie Buckwalter.

Dec. 28. Consecration Meeting. "Extending the Angel's Christmas Song." Luke, 2: 8-28. Mrs. A. K. Zartman.

Jan. 4. Week of Prayer. "What is our Desire?" Acts 2: 1-4, 17, 18, 41. Eugene Mathes.

Jan. 11. Personal Invitations. "Have you given any." John 1: 35-46. Alice Vordermark.

Jan. 18. "Why is Christ Precious to You?" Eph. 2: 1-10. Emma Neireiter.

Jan. 25. Consecration Meeting. The Continual Renewal of Strength. Isa. 40: 28-31. Phil Hyman.

A business meeting of the young people's society will be held Tuesday evening, Dec. 30, to transact business, and for the payment of monthly dues. Let all dues for this year be paid up at this meeting, so the Treasurer can make a complete report to the church on New Year's Day.

Rev. W. H. Zander entered upon the pastorate of the Salem Reformed Church December 1st. He has been very kindly received by his people, and we are confident will have their hearty co-operation in his work. The pastor and members of Grace Church are glad to welcome this brother into their midst, and hope his pastorate may be a long and prosperous one.

August Bruder, the jeweler will now be found in his new location, corner of Calhoun and Washington streets.

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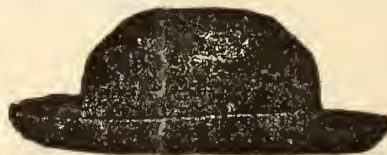
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